

REMARKS

No claim amendments are submitted at this time. Accordingly, claims 1-16 and 19-25 remain pending, with claims 1-16 and 21-23 under active prosecution, while non-elected claims 19, 20, 24 and 25 are withdrawn from consideration, subject to a request for rejoinder thereof. The present status of all claims in the application is provided in the Listing of Claims, beginning on page 2 of this communication.

The restriction of claims 1-16 and 19-25 under 35 USC §§ 121 and 372 as allegedly being drawn to two separate inventions is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that a search of one set of claims (e.g., the Group II claims, directed to methods for treating a liver disorder employing hepatocytes obtained by the Group I methods) would, of necessity, require a search of the other set of claims (e.g., the Group I claims, directed to methods of isolating normal hepatocytes). Accordingly, no savings of PTO resources will be realized by maintaining the requirement for restriction.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicant hereby elects Group I (i.e., claims 1-16 and 21-23). Non-elected claims 19, 20, 24 and 25 are retained in the application pending final disposition of the elected claims, and subject to a request for rejoinder thereof.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, prompt and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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